

Some cursory remarks made by James Birket in his voyage to North America, 1750–1751.

YALE HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS MANUSCRIPTS AND EDITED TEXTS IV

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY FROM
THE INCOME OF THE FREDERICK JOHN KINGSBURY MEMORIAL FUND

SOME CURSORY REMARKS

MADE BY JAMES BIRKET IN HIS VOYAGE TO NORTH AMERICA 1750–1751

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NEW HAVEN: YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS LONDON: HUMPHREY MILFORD OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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E162 .B6

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Published October, 1916 Three hundred copies printed from type

\$1.00

OCT 12 1916

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no.1 v

PREFACE

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The diary here printed under its original title, "Some Cursory Remarks made by James Birket," came undoubtedly from the collection of Dr. William Thornton, now on deposit in the Library of Congress. It was preserved by Mrs. Margaret Bayard Smith, the wife of Samuel Harrison Smith, founder and first editor of the *National Intelligencer*, and descended to Mrs. Smith's grandson, J. Henley Smith, by whom it was presented to the University for publication.

Of Birket himself nothing is known, beyond what is stated in his itinerary. He was probably one of Thornton's West India friends, a merchant and sea-captain living in Antigua, where the name is found among the records sufficiently often to establish the presence of a Birket family there. Among the Thornton papers is a little brochure, *The Ladies' Advocate, a Poem*, printed in Antigua in 1748, which bears the name of James Birket, the owner. How the diary came into Thornton's hands we do not know. Presumably it was given to him by Birket, either in Antigua or in Tortola of the Virgin Isles, where Thornton lived, and must have contained information which the latter would value, preparatory to visiting the United States, as he did some years later, when he took up his residence there.

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It is evident from the diary that Birket was in more or less frequent communication with many of the merchants of the Northern Colonies, and probably acted as correspondent and factor for them in their commercial dealings with Antigua. His observations show the mercantile bent of his mind and contain information that is not easy to obtain elsewhere.

C. M. A.

SOME CURSORY REMARKS MADE BY JAMES BIRKET

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SOME CURSORY REMARKS Made by James Birket IN HIS VOYAGE TO NORTH AMERICA

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1750

July 26th at two O'Clock P.M. sailed from St. 1750 John's Harbour in the Island of Antigua, in the Ship Knowles George Sibley Commander for Portsmouth on Piscataway river in New Hampshire, Henry Rust a young man of that Place and myself Passengers, this and the Two following days seasick and had as smart a breeze a Cross the trade as I ever met with

This day crossed the Tropick nothing remarkable; 1750 July 29th Fresh gale,

This evening it begun to blow & we had a violent gale Augt 4th of wind at S.W. Lat. 320° 34# about 10 o'Clock at night Sprung our Missin mast across by the deck

This morning the Strength of the gale being somewhat 5th abated about 7 o'Clock (the sea runing high) I observed a flock of Gray Plover which came close by the Ship and Seamd to fly directly to the So Et we being then in the Lato of Bermudas and abt 2° to the westward of it, which confirmd me of the Truth of 2 the Anor here, that these birds come from N. America to the West india Islands in July & Augt yearly, where they stay a Small time And then leave them to Seek fresh commons elsewhere

7th This day the weather being a little cool, I drank some beer to my dinne not having drank any before Since 17 Ape 1747

1750 Augt 11th This 3 or 4 days past fine weather and this day caught a Sherk 10½ foot long and by Computation see Above twenty Grampuses standing to the SoW

12th We caught some Mackrall and see a sword fish along side of the Ship about eight foot Long Exclusive of the sword of Snout that seemd to be above 3 foot long which was the only one I ever saw

13th We took near ½ bble of Mackrall wth in Georges bank from 9 @ 16½ Inch Long

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14th At 3 P.M. made the land called Egamenticus which are blue hills that lye 30# or 40# fro: the Sea, we see also to the Eastward near as far as Casco bay

15th This morning at one A.M. made the Isles of Shoals which are sundry Small Islands about 2 leagues from the mouth of Piscataway river upon the largest of which are 50 or 60 familys which make a Small town in which is a Presbyterian Meeting house & A minister that resides Amongst 'em Augt 15th 1750 their chiefe subsistance is by fishing as the Islands is an Entire bed of rocks which produces no herbage or Any kind of Corn, grain, or Timber we were becalmd near those Islands & Standing of and on all this day which furnished us with a fine Prospect 3 not only of these Islands but the main land also, which we were very near this afternoon and Expected to have been put on Shore by the Eddy tide in Shore but Escaped and put of to Sea again

Calm all the forenoon Several people came in a 16 boat to us where we lay, from the Isles of Shoals and about 12 o'Clock came from Portsmo in a boat Capt Mills, Paul Marsh & 2 Others, Soon after they came on board we observed the Breese come towards us, At one P.M had a fine breese and got round Augt 16 1750 fort Point at New Castle at 3 oClock & at 4 got up to the wharfe at the town of Portsmouth where came on board us

Mark Hunting Wentworth Esq

Jotham Odiovne Esq

Coleo Messerve

Capt Nathl Pearce

Mr. High Sherriff, Packer

Capt Ryon, Capt Burt & Sundry others at 7 oClock after regailing our guests we came ashore and Spent the Evening at the Widdaw Slatons with Paul Marsh Captain Pearce &

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Several others— where I lodged and intend to do So during my Stay in this place being the best tavern for Strangers in town

I Dined with Mark Hg Wentworth 17th

Do with Wm Keating at Capt Wm Pearsons 18.

Do with Capt Nat. Pearce at Geo Jeffrys 19

Do With Jotham Odiovne 20.

Do with John Sherburne 21.

Do with George Libby 22

Do with Henry Sherburne Esqr 23

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Augt 24 1750 Went with Henry Sherburne in his Chair to Exeter 15 miles fine road & dined with Coleo Gilman; this town is Scituate upon a branch of Piscataway river, where they have a large Wooden bridge over the Same where there is severall saw mills Grist mills & Ca and here the build Ships of good Burthen, this— Branch of the river being Navigable up to the town which is well built and Pleasantly Scituated there is two Presbyterian meeting houses here, one of the Newlight And one of the old, but 'tis hard to Say which Sees best there Seems to be 100 houses or more in the town, some of them built after the modern taste which make avery good Apearance; The People here as well as in Other branches of Piscataway river complain that there Lumber is far to fetch out of the Country and Stand, them very dear, which realy seems to be the case 1750 for the road that we went was extreamly well Inhabited all the way and the ground generally Cleared and as far as we could see beyond the town, but indeed one cannot see far here as the country is so much upon alevel that it's few Places that Afford any distant prospect, Abundance of Lumber

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is brought down to this town by Land carriage and afterwards is rafted down the river to Portsmo in the Evening we returnd with Geo Libby and Henry Rust in Compa

25th Dined with Jotham Odiovne

26 Dined with My landlady Slaton

27 Do with Do — And this day captain Sams from Bidiford agreed with M H Wentworth & Coleo 5 Miserve to build him a double deck vessel About 100ton for which he is to pay them in goods at 1100 ?Ct and to Allow them £30 ?ton The Exctra: is now reckond at 1000 ?Ct there first agreemt was to Augt 27 take the goods at 1200 ?Ct but the Gentlemen 1750 Aledged there had been an Advance put upon the goods and therefore Insisted on the above Abatemt The goods were chiefly courseCloths and aKind of duffilds like ordinary bearskins, Camblets, Shallons, Plushes, and Some All spuns, Ironpots,— Pewter, Cordage, Course rugs & Blankets, Allsort of shipnails, Shoes & Boots course Hats, Ready made Cloaths, and other kind of coursegoods

Another Captain from the same Place agreed for aSmaller vessel at 25£: ?ton and to pay in goods 25 ?Ct on the Sterlg Invoice, but this vessel, being # finishd as aSale vessel, was deem'd avery indifferent one both as to wood and workmanship as that sort generally are

dined with my Landlady Slaton 28th

Do at Capt Pearsons with Wm Keeting 29th

Do with my landlady Slaton 30

Paul Marsh Edmd Quncey Junr and Ctpt Newmarsh 31th and myself got aboat And went up the river as far as Quochecho, aBranch of Piscataway Augt 31 1750 river about 12 Mile above Portsmo where we went on board a Sloop loaded with Lumber that was brought down to to her from Quochecho Town The Country along this river on both Sides is very full of Inhabitants There we See aSix vained wind mill and those well Supply'd with the

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Necessaries of life 6 About Dover we observed the land much freer from Stones and more of aSandy Soil, never the less we see many large Orchards Loaden with fruite and Abundance of Maze in their fields; got home in good time and dined wth Landlady Slaton

I shall now attempt aShort discription of New Hampshire and the town of Portsmouth & Ca Just as it Occur'd to me during my Short stay there, as I intend to Set out towards Boston Tomorrow Morning,

Augt 31 1750 The river of Piscataway— being the only one of 1750 any note within this Province, and I think exceeds any I have yet seen, for the extent of it, And lyes about WNW: & ESE 'tis said to be from 7 @ 16 fathom at low water with aBold Shore and has many creeks & Coves where there is good Anchorage out of the tides way for the largest ships, it is of aModerate breadth from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile, and at some points that Jetts out into the Stream Still Narrower, Again in other places above the Town it extend, itself to a great Breadth; From the Fort point at Newcastle where it disembogues itself into the sea to the Town of Portsmo Commonly caled by the Country People (Strawberry bank) is three miles, and the extent of its Navigation is in Some branches 12 in others 18 or 20 Miles for Small vessels, as to Exeter, Dover, Berwick and Quochecho And other places where they have Saw Mills, Grist mills, & Ca but for their larger vessels they bring their Lumber down in Rafts to the bank where the said vessels lye to take it in

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Formerly this river was well stored with Salmon which they took in plenty but of Late they have quite forsaken this river, Occasion'd as its' believed from the Number of Sawmills on the different branches of P. river, the weirs of which runing crop the same And the Sawdust from the pine, which its believed is very ungratefull to the fish when Mixed with the Water and has Occasiond them to Seek for fresh quarters, The river below the town and for some miles above the Same is well Stored wth Codfish, Bass and several other Sorts of Choice fish, Lobsters they bake in abundance near their wharfs

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This river makes a very grand & Genteel appearance at the Entrance for for On the Larboard hand going from the Sea you have the Antient town of Newcastle with a fort upon the point, And in the town a large Meeting house with a very high Wooden Spire Steeple which you See many miles at Sea, As you Also do another tall Spire of the Same Sort on the Starboard hand going in Called Kittery, where is the Seat of that great Commande Sr William Peperill Generall of the Army that Re-duced Cape Briton And the City of Louisburgh after a Long and Close Siege; there is also Several other handsome, neat houses Near Sr Williams, as his Sons and also his soninlaw Sparrowhawks, both which make a good appearance from the river

N.B. this river divides the province of New Hampshire from the province of Main to the Eastward which last is in the Massachusets bay & all the other countys to the Eastwd

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The Town of Portsmouth is Scituated upon Piscataway river about 3 miles from the sea upon a Moderate rising ground, not only from the river, but also from the Adjacent country to the Parade or Center thereof; where 4 Principal streets meet in the nature of a + there are pretty Streight and regular through which you have a prospect of the country on every side; the other Streets are Irregular & Crooked with many vacant lots not yet built upon, and most of em now made use of in gardens & Ca as the town Stands partly upon a point that Jetts out into the river it makes very good Conveniencys for Building wharfs and warehouses on each side out of the Strean where Ships of any Burthen may lay & discharge their cargos into the warehouses wth out Expencc or trouble

The houses that are of Modern Architecture are large & Exceeding neat this Sort is generally 3 Story high & well Sashed and Glazed with the best glass the rooms are well plasterd and many Wainscoted or hung with painted paper from England the outside Clapboarded very neatly and are very warm and Comodious houses one thing I observed there that they lay all there floors double, not Crossing each Other but that the seam or Joint of the uper course Shall fall upon the middle of the lower plank which prevents the air

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from coming thro' the floor in winter or the water falling down in Summer when they wash their houses

As to their Publick Buildings the have a Church of the Establishd religion for church of England 9 (which is the only one in this Governmt) they have also two Meeting houses for the Presbyterian or Independent perswasion All three built of wood with tall spires to each which you See a long way off at sea, indeed all the houses in town Save two are built of wood Their Court house has been formerly adwelling house and is now a Scandalous old building ready to tumble down; they have no other buildings worthy of Notice — The better sort of People here live very well and Genteel, They have no fixt market but the Country people come to town as it suits them with such of the Commoditys as they have for Sale by which the town is pretty well Supply'd with Beefe, Mutton, veal, and other Butchers Meat; they have plenty of large Hoggs and very fat bacon, they have also abundance of good fish of diferent Kinds, And abundance of Garden Culture as Beans, Peas, Carrots, Parsnips, Turnips, Radishes, Onions, Cabages Colliflowers, Asparagus, English or whats commonly called Irish Potatoes also the Sweet Potatoe, Obtains almost alover North America, More so to southward, They have also Apples Pears, Plumbs, Cherries, & Peaches in a Abundance They have also Apricots & Nectrines from England, but do not Observe they had given any of them the Advantage of awall, there's likewise Gooseberrys Currant Do Rasberries, Strawberries, Huckleberries Water & Muskmellions, Squashes and Sundry Other kinds of fruits roots &c &c There common drink is Cyder which they have in great Plenty, and New England rum And also new 10 rum from the Westindies, But People of fortune (especially the Marsh's) have very good rum and Madeira wine in their homes, Indeed the wine most commonly Drunk here is from the Canaries & Western Islands— called Oidonia, tis of a pale collr tastes harsh and is inclined to look thick

There taverns are very Indifferent & little frequented by any but Strangers

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This town enjoys a fine Air by Standing upon arising ground and command a fine prospect from the Center every way and is Certainly the most agreeably Scituated for Pleasure or Bussiness of most places I have Seen

This Government or Province of New Hampshire is bounded to the Northeast by Piscataway river wch Separates it from the Province of main, & Countys of york & Cornwall, And to The S.W. by a line run to the N E of Merrimac river about 2 miles which divides it from the Massachusetts bay 'Tis about 18 miles wide but the length from NW. to S. E. I could not learn; The ground in this Country is mostly a light Soil, Inclined to be Sandy, & some places more of a Gritty and Gravelly nature and not capable of bearing Much dry weather, yet being not often broke up is very Productive in Seasonable years, they raise Oats & Barley but their Chief grain is Maize or Indian Corn of which they plant a good deal but not Enough for their own Consumption being Obliged to Import large Quantities from Maryland & Virginia, Also from New York & Philadelphia from the 2 last places 11 they have all their flour as their own Country will not produce any wheat, They have Abundance of Large Orchards And Make great Quantities of Cyder wch is their Ordinary drink, they also export a good deal to Halifax, Terre Nova N&S. Carolina & C, This province also produces Good Hops & Exceeding good flax of which the Irish Settled at London derry Make very good Cloth & fine Ounce thread, Some of the Cloth I see which was choise good Shirting Linnen and I am informed this little town increases very much, This Province abounds with rocks and large Stones but they are of such a Stubborn nature and break so Crossly that they are not fit for any thing except field fences & not good even for that; The land seems Capable of grain more than Sufficient for their Own Consumpt but the people up the the rivers Seem more eager after Manufacturing the Lumber, And those below yt are near the Sea, Are either Seamen Fishermen & Ca So that between the two the land Seems to be a good deal Neglected, Tho' it Seems generally capable of Cultivation as it's near upon a level wth Small risings and fallings, Sufficient to carry off the water after rain but you have not any hills of any Considerable height for many miles the nearest you See is reckoned

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40 or 50 miles from you in the inland part of the Country, yet the ground in general is dry and very good roads for road horses or Carriages

The Exports of this province are Chiefly Lumber, as Boards, Plank, Joists, Staves, Shingles &c which come mostly down the River from the different 12 Branchs also fish which they send as well as the Lumber to the West Indies and the latter also to the Straights &c they have also sent a good deal of Lumber to the City of Halifax and Nova Scotia & Terre Nova &c Altho they complain that it is very dear to them the Cartage out of the woods to the mills being now a long way and the wood dear to what it used to be Their present Price Currnt Seems to be for Boards Plank & Joists 16 @ £18 ?ms, Ship building ½ goods ½ Cash 25. @ 30£ ?ton Rum 28@33 ?Gall Masts 16 Inch 75 feet Long £20, Clapboards 16£ ?ms Shingles £ ?ms Extra a London 900 ?Ct or 10 for 1

As to their woods, they are of different Kinds their Oak is esteem'd — the best timber in the Northern Collonies for Ship building of which they carry on a very great stroke which they send to the Westindies and Europe and there dispose of them, they have also— Several sorts of pine some much more Serviceable then Others which they Saw into boards plan & Joists Some that are cut Down and Shipt to England for Masts for the royal Navy, there is also great q tys of masts cut and Lumber made to the E.wd as far as Casco bay where large— Ships loads Masts for the Kings yds And abundance of Lumber is here Shipt in Small Sloops for Boston they have also Ash, Beech, Walnut of sundry Sorts very large Chesnuts And Sundry other Kinds of wood

I do not find there is any Iron works in this Province for in the last year they paid a Most Intolerable 13 price for Iron which they Chiefly have from Maryland Virginia & Pensilvania, Not only for Shipwork but all other uses

Their Cattle are small but Seemingly very strong having Short thick bodies and Short Limbs, Their Horses are also Small but very Hardy & Strong their Sheep are Small but the meat very Sweet fat & well tasted they have plenty of Poultry as Geese Turkeys, dunghill

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fowles Ducks & Ca tame; And plenty of Wild Turkeys in the woods also Wild geese & Ducks Partridge much Smaller than ours Also abundance of small birds as Blackbirds who have a note much like frogs in a Summer Evening they Keep in prodigious flocks; the have also, a Bird like our field fare with a red Brest which the call a Robin that sings delightfully, I also See the Humming bird here in the Month of August—

This day about 11 o'Clock left Portsmo with man 1751 Septeme 1st Yorkshire on two hired horses in Compa with Capt Wm Pearson & William Keeting who Set us on our way about 6 miles, We got to Hampton to dinner being 9 miles, In the afternoon we Viewd this town as we rode along being pleasantly Scituated in a fine open country, on the west side of which is a large tract of middow Ground where we see as we passed them abundance of Stacks of salt hay cut in these Middows, They let the Stacks remain until the frost come And enable them to fetch it home at Other times the ground is too soft & boggy to go upon with any Kind of Carriage being frequently overflowd by the tides especially near the river From Hampton 14 to Newburry is 11 Miles where I arrivd about Sun Set And then found myself near two miles in Boston Government we Crossed the river in a 1751 Sepr 1st Sailing ferry boat and landed in Newburry, At my landing met with Capt Woodbridge who went with me to a tavern or Inn Kept by one Ebenezer Chout where we had a pint of wine &C This river that washes the borders of Newburry is called Merrimack & is about a Mile in Breadth at the town and of a prodigious extent back into the Country as may be Seen by the maps, Tis of a good depth at the town for Shiping but they are obliged if large, to waite for Spring tides to Come in as there is a Bar at the mouth of it that has not above 10 feet at Low water but is above 16 feet at Spring tides. It is not Navigable much above the town being full of rocks & Shoals Notwithstanding the bring down great Qtys of timber for Ship building which the turn into ye river above the falls, And the Stream brings it down as it does also Staves & Shingles made Up in Bundles which are also turn'd into the river and so pickt out again by people that attend on purpose about the town and deliverd to the Owners thereof

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This river is the most remarkable for Salmon of any in those parts and now more so as they have forsaken Piscataqua as before Observed

Newbury is a pretty good town Scituated on the Wt Side of the above sd river in the Collony of the Massachusetts bay, And Extends itself near a mile on the bank of the river, with two long Streets which 15 run Paralell wth the river and Several Cross Streets It is pretty well Built, And has 2 large presbyterian Meeting houses And one Episcopal Church, but that is without a Minister Consequently the Sheep are Scattered. Here is carried on a Great trade in Ship building, I reckoned 26 upon the Stocks in the town besides wt was Launchd and then in the river And what was building in Other Parts Adjacent, I lodged at Ebenezer Chouts—

Being first day, I rode about two miles into the Sepe 2d Country to a Meeting at Haveril dined at a friends house Close by & return'd to Chouts in the Evening

This morning set out for Ipswich being 11 Miles, Sepr 3d got there in two hours being Excellent road I baited here, This is a pretty large Inland Town Scituated upon a fine river but not Navigable so high as the Town There is a Large Presbyterian Meeting ho in the Middle of the Town, the houses here seem to be mostly old And upon the decline they have Some Coasting vessels that come to below the town at at some distance where they discharge and take in their Loadings reCrossd this river at the end of the Town by a Wooden bridge, from This Town to Beverley Ferry is 10 miles and one on the other Side to Salem, This last stage is most Excellent Road, even, Smooth and hard Gravell— I dined at the widdow Pratts at Salem and Spent the afternoon with Capt Ingersoll & Capt Pointon who are my Old Acquaintance, Lodged wth Capt Ingersoll, Salem is a large Town well built, many genteel large houses (which tho' of wood) are all 16 * plasterd on the outside in Imitation of Hewn Stone, Here is a good Harbour for Small vessels, and Several good Wharfs & Warehouses & a good trade to the Westindies for their fish and Lumber &C.

* This is a Mistake they are pland & Painted

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About 4 miles from hence SoWard Stands the town of Marblehead, I was not there as it lyes Something out of the road to Boston and the way to it is very Stoney & Rugged they carry on a good trade in fishing having not less then 160 or 170 Sail of Scooners intirely Imployd in that Branch of Bussiness And A mercht there whose name is Hooper— Sends up the Straights 5 or 6 vessels of his own with fish every year

Sepr 4th This morning Set out for Boston with Capt Pointon's Mare & Chair & left one of my hired horses at Salem from which the 1st Stage is to Linn being 8 Miles this is a Neat Pleasant Country Town or village but very Irregular from Linn to winisimet ferry, or Chelsey ferrey is 7 Miles, and from thence over the Bay to Boston is Reckoned One & A Half mile

And I am of Opinon tis near two miles I drove the Mare and Chair in 2 ½ hours from Salem to the ferry which is 15 Miles at Least; we got over the ferry by Eleven o'Clock And dined at a Widdow Womans Near the ferry, and after dinner went to the Exchange Tavern & from thence to Capt Hugh Canes & took Lodgings at one Arthurs for myself and Man Yorkshire

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Nothing remarkable this day dined at My Lodgings Sepr 5th

Dined with Capt Hugh Cane & after dinner took 6th a Walk with him & Wm Husbands round the town to See what was most Remarkable

Dined with Jacob Ryall Esqr in Compa with 7 Henry Vassels & in the Evening went with said Vassels to Cambridge in his Chase being 8 miles the land way but Over Charles town ferry tis Only Recon'd 4 Miles—

Returnd from Cambridge to Boston In Henry 1750 Sepr 8th Vassels's Chase by way of Charles Town where we Crossed the ferry and dined with Capt Combes Charles Town is pretty Large & a Country town Scituate upon a Peninsula between Mistick river & Charles River & is Caled the Mother of Boston being Settled before it & parted from Boston only by

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Charles River over which there is a ferry very well Attended & the River here is as broad as the Thames at London, This town has two large Streets that Come down towards the ferry, and Handsome large Meeting House & Good Market place It has but Little trade as Boston is so Near it most people in trade Choose to live there

Being first day dined at my Lodgings being much 9th 1750 out of Order with the Cholick & A Cold in the Evening went home with H Vassels to Cambridge in his Chariot—

Henry Vassels & Self went in his Chace to Dorchester Sepr 10th to dine with Coleo Robt Oliver being 9 Miles 18 Returned in the Evening; This is a very Pleasant country town And Stands about 4 Miles from Boston, here the Land Seems to Exceed any that I have Seen in this Country, & their Orchards Seem to be of the Best fruit trees And are very large which enables them to make abundance of Cyder; Old Parson Jno Chickly & his wife came from Providence In a Chair 47 Miles & Lodged that night with Henry Vassels

Sepr 11th We went with a Couple of Country Clergymen, Conducted by Hancock one of the Tutors to See the College at Cambridge, Which Consists of three Separat Brick buildings which was Errected at different times The first About the year 1638 and called Harvard College from one Harvard who was a 1750 Sepr 11n great Encourager of it, And as their Stock Increased they added two Other Large buildings, One of which is called Stoughton hall, And although the 2 wings do not Join to the Middle buildg yet they are So placed As to form a very handsom Area or Courtyard in the Middle, there is also a Small Chapell where the Students hear prayers twice every day they are About 100 in Number, and as likely well looking young men from about 15 to 20 years of age as any I have Seen, They have a Large & Commodious Library but the books are mostly Old And not kept in that Order One could wish, They have also Some Natural Curiositys but in no regularity nor do they know what many of 'em Are—

1750 Sepr 11 The Town of Cambridge is well Scituated On Charles River which is Navigable to the Town and 19 over wch there is a very good wooden bridge but has no

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trade (being too Near to Boston) the Inhabitants dependg Chiefly on their Courts &C. being the Chiefe of a County And the Colledge &C There are Some good homes here and the town is laid out very Regular, but for want of trade One 4th part of it is not built The Country here abouts is well Cleard and the ground looks very Promising for Corn or Grass After our return from the Colledg dined with H Vassels—

H. Vassels, One Ellerey, Old Chickley And myself Sepr 12 Went in 2 Chases to Castle William, which Stands upon an Island in the Bay 3 Miles below Boston and 12 from Cambridge where we dined with the Captain Chaplain &c in the Great Hall— This fortification was built very early after the Settlement 1750 Sepr 12th was made, but very Irregular, upon which King William Sent over An Engineer to repair the Same, Instead of which he demolished it, And Errected a more regular Fortress in its room and Called it Castle William, Since wch Como Knowles has added greatly to its Strength by an Additional Battery, which mounts a great many Guns, So that now it may be reckon'd Amongst the Strongest fortifications in Our America A regular Watch being Kept night And day, And not a vessel passes into Boston Harbour, or out wthout being hail'd from the fort,—as the only Good Channel for Shiping lyes Close Along the Shore of this Island and within Pistol Shot of the Castle Where I believe there is not less then 150 pieces of Cannon a great Qty of 20 Small arms, And a Considerable Number of men always upon duty

1750 Sepr 12th About 2 good leagues below the fort or Castle Stands a very good lightho for the Direction of Shiping, and in war time the make Signals to the Castle upon Seeing Any number of Shiping by Lowering & hoisting a flag as many times as the See vessels in the offing

13th Returnd to Cambridge in the evening H. Vassels Brought me down to Charles Town ferry in his Chase & then returnd I came over and dined wth Capt Cane But was invited to dine with Isaac Ryall Esq upon his Commenceing a C of the Horse 'twas Said he that day

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Entertaind between 3 & 400 men, And Suposd it lost him a Couple of Thousand Pounds O
T—

14th I dined with Capt James Forbes & Spent the Evening With Capt Jno Lang from
Whitley who was building a Ship here for the Coal trade—

15th I dined with Foster Hutchinson & Spent the Evening with James Griffin One of their
Most Eminent Merchts And an Agreeable man

1750 Sept 16 Being the first day of the week I was At Meeting and dined with my friend
Benja Bagnall Sene And in the Evening took leave of Boston And Went in the Charrot with
my friend H. Vassels to Cambridge and Also Man Yorkshire & our baggage

BOSTON is a large well built town (& by some writirs Called a City) Chiefly of Brick altho
there are a good many Wooden houses that make a very 21 good figure, 'Tis Computed to
be near two miles in Length from Charles Town ferry, to Fortification Gate upon the Neck
And Six in Circumference And to Contain About 3000 houses And 20000 Inhabitants;
the Streets are all well paved a thing rare in New England, And in the North End of the
town Crooked, Narrow, And disagreeable but from the State house Soward fine Open
Capacious Streight Streets from the Gover House to the Stateho is one of the finest I saw
in america Called Cornhill, Also King street which Extends from the Statehouse to the
head of the Long wharf is A curious fine Open Genteel Street At the uper end of which,
1750 Sept 16 Near the end of the Statehouse (which the walk in, in Bad weather) the
Merchants meet every day about Eleven o'Clock & Continue continue until near One
before the retire to dinner: Amongst whom you will find very good entertainment, And their
houses furnished in an Elegant manner Their dress very genteel & In my Opinion both
men & Women are too Expensive in that respect

There Publick buildings are, first the State or Province house where the Governour his
Councile and the Assembly, or house of Representatives meet to make laws & Ca And a
large Room for the Courts of Justice to be held in And the ground room as before is made

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use of as a Charge at times— Fannivelle Hall, built by Peter Faniuelle & cost as it is rd £20000, which he gave to the Town the botton part for a Market house & Above Stairs for the Transacting of Publick affairs of the Town 22 1750 Sepr 16 But what is Surprizing to Strangers before it was Accepted b the town It was put to the vote whether or no it Should be Accepted of and was Only Carried by 6 or 8 votes So great is the Aversion of the vulgar to any Publick or Stated markets, or Market days which is now in Some measure got the better of, There is Nineteen different places of Worship in the Town (to wit) thirteen of the Independents Presbyterians & newlights & Ca but I look upon the Church of Boston to Consist Chiefly of the first, two Baptists Meetings three of the Established Church of England which Seems to me to gain Ground all over New England, Also One Quaker Meeting ho So Called, by the Map of this town the Author Makes 17 Spires Cupola's & Ca Two of which I find to be his own Invention & Imposition on the Publick; this town Stands upon a Peninsula which is Joined at the South End by A Narrow neck of Land in Some places not more then 40 yds broad, 1750 Sepr 16 (and pallisadod Across, with a Strong gate to Pass through when they go out, or come into town) And at the bottom of a large bay guarded from the Sea by many fine Island, Several of wch are inhabited & have Excellent Pasturage, this harbour is large & Comodious for Trade having a Sufficent depth of water which allows the vessels to come up to the wharfs one of which * called the Long wharfe is near half a Mile in Length running from the Bottom

* This is the Boston people's Accot But Since have been Informed by one who Measured it & found it to be only 700 yds in Length See the Conclusion of this Itinerary

23 of King Street directly into the Harbour, where vessels lye moor'd to it in great Safty and discharge there Cargos into Warehouses that are Errected upon the Northside of Sd Wharfe almost the length of it, besides this there are vast Numbers of other wharfs Warehouses & Docks &C where vessels Load & Discharge there cargos wthout the help of Boats Lighters &C and Great ease to the People

The trade of Boston Seems to be upon the decline 1750 Sepr 16 in my Opinion, for I do not see Any thing they can call a Staple amongst them Save Ship Building and Somthing

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of the fishing trade, and that cannot be called properly their's, as it is not taken by the Inhabitants of Boston but those of Cape Ann, Marblehead, & Salem, where they go to purchass their fish for Exportan and their Oil &C from the people of Nantucket, Their Lumber from the Govt of Piscataway, york County, the Province of Main, & as far to the Eastwd as Casco bay, There are the Chiefe Articles they export, as to Imports they have a good Share, viz large qtys of Dry goods of all Kinds, from England, Rum, Sugar, & Melassas from the West indies, & Bread & flour from Philadelphia, also Bar Iron for which they Send them Rum of their Own distillation Some refind Sugar, & Some fish & Ca And the rest in cash whilst they had 1750 Sepr 16 it, but now there is little of that left Since they have by an Act of Assembly called in all the Province bills & Issued out of the Treasury the Dollars (to the Amo. of £170,000 Ster?. and upwards) granted 24 them by Parliment towards defraying their Expences in going agst Cape briton as they were very much Straightened to make their Remittances Especially to England these dollars has been almost every one of em Picked up for that End so that at present they seem to be without money or Credit, which is a Miserable Scituation

They are esteemd to build the best Ships here in any part of North America, for the goodness of work & their wood is not Inferiour, if they Choose the best, but there is So many Sorts of Oak here, that a Stranger is in great danger to be Imposed upon except he meet with a faith full man and Such are not always to be met wth by Strangers; The Artificers in this Place Exceed Any upon ye Continent And are here also Most Numerous as Cabinet Makers, Chace & Coach Makers, Shoe Makers, 1750 Sepr 16 Taylors Peruke Makers Watchmakers, Printers, Smiths, &C &C The Merchants are Numerous but many of them want bottom to Carry on An Advantageous & Extensive trade Others of 'em tho' not many, have Acquired Opulent fortunes and with great Reputation

there has been Built here in one year (i.e. in the Province) 700 Sail of vessels 200 of which were from 100 to 200 Ton And 1000 Sail has been Clear'd out of this port in One year, but now their woods are very much Cut down and destroy'd and what they have is brought

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along way by land Carriage in many places, which makes building Come much dearer than formerly

25

Continued at Cambridge bought a horse from One Sepr 17th Stedman for £160 OT. And hired Another for Yorkshire

Set out for Rhode Island, H. Vassels And his Doo 18th Wife, Mary Phips The Lieut Goves Daughter with Two Servants &C To Accompany me So far on my Journey, Our first Stage was 19 Miles to A house Kept by one Robins where we dined upon Roastd Partridges Fat bacon & Irish Potatoes now plentifully 1750 Sepr 18th Produced in that Part of the world & tollerably good, In the Afternoon we travelled 19 Miles more to One Mother Stacks, who I thought realy very Slack in her Attendance for twas with great Intreaty and fair words that we obtained a Candle altho twas So dark when we lighted that we could Scarce See Another & What was worse She had nothing in the world for Supper However upon Rummaging the Chace box we found in our own Store a Couple of Roasted Fowles Some white biscuit, Lemons, Rum, Sugar &C So that out of our own Store we made out a Handsome Supper & Liquor to it but could not do So well for Lodgings our Beds being very Indifferent—

This Morning we passed Sea Conk plain being Sepr 19th about 3 miles over without a Shrub and quite Levell, Sorroundd with woods makes no disagreeable apearance, here we left Providence road upon our Right hand and proceeded to one Hunts at Rehoboth being 9 Miles where we Breakfasted, from thence we Came through Some fine tall woods of Oak timber the best I had yet seen to Swansey ferry being 4 26 Miles which we passed in very heavy rain, And Came to Bristol before dinner, Dined at One Widdow Pains a Private house but sent Our horses to the Tavern

Bristol is a Small town but regularly laid out in Squares many lots in which are not built One large Desenting Meeting ho besides which I did not See any Other Publick building

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This Town lyes at the bottom of Rhode Island bay or harbour has good depth of water,
—And Several Wharfs where a vessel may lye And there Load & Discharge at Pleasure;
But the Town of Newport seems to draw away Most of the Trade from this as Most Large
places do from new Settlements Notwithstanding they have Some vessels in the westindia
trade and build many vessels here And in the Neighbourhood—It is a proverb here that
Bristol is Only remarkable for its plenty of women and Geese

Sepr 19th 1750 After dinner we went to Bristol ferry being 2 Miles and Crossed the Same
where we Entered upon the N.E. End of Rhode Island and Came the Same Evening to
New Port being 12 Miles and Lodged at the late Deputy Governour Wm Ellereys but Sent
our horses to the Tavern

Sepr 20th We all dined with Our fr'd Ellereys Lady he being out of Town and in the
afternoon I left my Compn there and went to Capt Jno Jepson's where I lodged as Also my
man & horse during my Stay in R. I,

Sepr 21st I dined with Capt Jonathan Thurston

27

I dined at John Jepsons and in the Afternoon I 22d went with my fellow travelers to See
Captain Molbons Country house It Stands upon a tolerable Advantageous Scituation
About a mile out of the Sepr 22d 1750 Town And makes a good Appearance at a distance,
but when you came to Survey it nearer it does not Answer your Expectation It is Built of
Hewn Stone and all the Corners and Sides of the windows are all painted to represent
Marble, You Enter from a large flight of Steps into the first Story which is very Grand
the Rooms being to Appearance 16 or 17 foot high but the upper Story is Neither of the
proportionable in the height of the rooms nor Size of the Windows the Cellars Kitchens &C
are below Stairs 'tho Only upon the Surface of the Earth before the house is a Handsome
Garden with variety of wall fruits And flowers &C; this house & Garden is reckond the
wonder of that part of the Country not being Such another in this Government N: B we

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Enter'd this Governmt of Rhode Island at Bristol ferry wch Parts it from the Massachusetts-bay

This day I was 'twice at Meeting which is very Sepr 23d 1750 large; the Meetg house is also large and has two tier of Gallerys And a Cupola on the top, but the friends in my Opinion are as Topping as their house, for I did not Imagine one half of the Congregation had been of that Society and I afterwards found they were not to be known by their Language dress, or behaviour Altho' there Seems to be a few wn (Compair'd with the whole) that are very Exemplary 28 in every respect and an honour to their proffession and the Society; this day dined wth my landlord Jepson—

24th This Morning I Accompany'd my good friends Henry Vassals & his Spouse And Mary Phips on their return back as far as—Bristol ferry which is 12 Miles where I took leave of 'em & returnd to Jno Jepsons to dinner

25th I dined wth Capt John Thurstone

26. I dined wth our fr'd John Easton

27. I dined wth Capt Jno Brown Mercht

Sepr 28th 1750 I dined at Jonathan Thurstons

29. I dined at Abram Redwoods

30 I dined at Jno Jepsons & was a Meeting

Octe 1st I dined with Do

2d I dined with Joseph Whipple this day we walked over the hill behind the town to the Beach and to Nichs Eastons where we See his little dear park and his pond where he keeps his wild geese, brants, & wild ducks & Ca

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Newport is the only town in the Island and Stands on the NW Side thereof and Near the West end, and upon arising ground from the Sea or harbour is in the General well built And all of wood (Except the Statehouse and one of Capt Molbons which are of Brick) the houses in general make a good Apearance and also as well furnished as in Most places you will meet with, many of the rooms being hung with printed Canvas and paper &C which looks very neat Others are well wainscoted and painted as in other places The main Street is called a Mile long 29 and runs Paralell with the Harbour besides which there are Several other Streets and lanes which are regular and pretty well built, That part of the town called the point is also laid out in Squares and pretty well built, they have abundance of good wharves which Extend the whole length of the town where vessels of any burthen can Load, discharge, or heave down without the help of Lighters which renders it an Excellent Scituation for trade and more Especially as it is so near the Sea that vessels are out or in, in a Moment, notwithstanding the labour under one great inconvenience that is their Ships & vessels are subject to the worm and more particularly at the point where the best water is but this is only in the Sumr time

They have one Wharf which by way of preeminence is Called the Long wharf and runs from the bottom of a Spacious wide Street (at the uper End of which Stands the Statehouse fronting to the Sea) about half a Mile into the harbour And then turns with an Angle and Joins it Self to the point, There is 1750 Octe 2d a Number of warehouses built upon this Noble wharf in Imitation of that in Boston and in one thing Exceeds it by the Joining to the Mainland at both ends it forms a fine Bason Where Small vessels lye very safe in the Winter time Entering by the Drawbridge that's placed about the Middle of the said long wharfe

There is Several publick buildings in this Town worthy of Notice, viz' the Statehouse which (as before) Stands at the upper end of a Spacious wide 30 Street fronting to the harbour, is built of Brick and is a Genteel Large buildg There is a large meeting house for the friends as before Observed; One with a large handsome Steeple for the Presbyterians;

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one Do for Do Somthing Smaller One for the Church of England which is very neat and Genteel, and pretty large; One of the 7th day & one of the first day Baptists, there is also a good many Jews but the have no Sinagogue, They have here a very 1750 Octo 2d Handsome Library built upon the hill above the Town and is well adapted for the use designed being Only one Story but the floor raised Several Steps, and from thence they have a good prospect of the Harbour And Neighbouring Country Abram Redwood Made a present to the Said Library of £500 Sterg. value in books on Sundry Subjects.

Here is abundance of Transient French Merchts which are concerned with the people in trade to Cape Briton, Cape Francois, &C. They have also a good trade from hence to the Coast of Guinea, The Bay of Honduras for Log wood which the send chiefly to Holland and have alsorts of dutch goods in return which are all run by the Connivance of good natured officers who have a feeling Sence of their Neighbours Industry, They have also a good Trade to the wt India Islands with flour, Pork, Shingles, Staves, Boards, Horses, &C the Chief of which the Purchass from their Neighbours in Connecticut Governmt

1750 Octoe 2d This Island is throughout like a Garden from the Industry of their farmers who keep there ground 31 very Clean Their fences are Chiefly of Stone made by themselves to Save their wood a piece of Industry rarely met with in North America, They do not grow any wheat, but Some Oats and a good deal of Maze & they have Excellent grass and fine Cattle, the largest by much I see in America

Their Curr'y which is Chiefly Paper is Esteemd upon the worst footing of any in N. America and depreciates in value every year, yet the Legislature are Generally ready to Issue a fresh bank, upon the Aplication of Any one of their Learn'd body who frequently make good use of those Opportunitys

I set out for New York in Compa with my worthy Octoe 3d friend Geo: Mifflin this day about 10 o'Clock I hired a horse for Yorkshire from Capt Josh Scott who is now Sherriff

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We took boat at the Point & in about 2 hours landed Octoe 3d 1750 upon the Island of Connanicut being 3 Miles but the wind blowed very Strong agst us, we then Crossed this Island beg one Mile to the Next ferry but it blowd So hard we could not get over So was Obliged to dine with an ill natured Scold at the ferry house who gave us Potatoes & Tatogue with an intolerable dirty Cloth &C however after the Dinner we got over the ferry being 3 miles, in Two hours the wind Continuing to blow hard agst us, from hence we had 5 Miles to one Caseys at Tower hill very bad Stony Road, this is reckon'd one of the best houses of Entertainment in the Governmt but being Court time & a number of People there we 32 did not Stop, but proceeded Along the Naraganset Country 9 miles' to Sqe Hills at Charles Town where we Lodged, This Country is very Subjt to Stones &C And uneven—

Octoe 4th 1750 We were up early this morning in order to Proceed on our Journey wn Behold our horses had made their Escape out of the Stable and being late before they were found, & yorkshire who went in Pursuit of 'em with Hills Indian Boy did not return till after Sunset Obliged us to Stay here another night in the Meantime my Fellow Traveller & Self, went out a Shooting Killd some Squirrels and some very pretty birds called Marsh quails Something bigger then a field fare and fine Eatg we also went to See the Pallace of the King of the Narraganset Indians but he being a Minor & With his Grandmother about 9 or 10 Miles up the Country at another Town, we were deprived of a Sight of his Majesty, Our Landlord Hill told us that he has got a good many Subjects that are Sober Religeous People and about 20,000 Acres of land in his Own right which he & Octoe 4th 1750 his Ancestors have held theirs even since the discovery of this Country by the English and no doubt long before Some Gentlemen in Newport are a kind of Guardians to him and receive his rents, Lease out his lands & Ca for him during his Minority as well to the Whites as his Own Subjects

Octoo 5 We Set out pretty early after riding a mile We left the Indian Wigwams on Our Left And their Kings palace on our right which is but an Indifferent 33 house Built of Stone two Story high, the Glass very much broke and Otherwise to Appearance very much out

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of Repair, we travelled through a great deal of Stony uneven road until we got to one Coleo Williams who keeps a house of Entertainmt So Called at Stoninton being 21 Miles where we dined upon Salt pork and Turneps with thick Cyder to drink, here we Crossd Mistick river at a wooden bridge, and So proceeded through Groton a very Stoney uneven Country but no high land only full of Small 1750 Octo 5th hills or risings & fallings 9 Miles which brought us upon the banks of the river Thames Opposite to New London we Crossed this river by the ferry boat where it is esteemd a mile over & took up our Lodgings at one Capt Bradocks formerly a Sea Captain who behaves with great Politeness & Good Manners to his Guests when Compared with the rude lazy drones of this Part of the world

We took a Walk about a Mile out of town to See Octoe 6th Capt Thos Olliver at his house, The Surface of the ground is almost Coverd with large immovable Stones that makes it mighty difficult to Plough &C here; they Sow Some wheat & Rye, Oats &Ca Abound in Orchards And Great Plenty of Fruit and Make Abundance of Cyder Spent the Evening with Mathew Stewart who treated us very kindly And in a very Genteel manner

We walked to Capt Olivers and dined with him, Octoe 7 1750 his Neighbour Capt Duffy & An Other Gentleman dined there also

NEW LONDON is the Capital of the County of 34 that name And pleasantly Scituated upon the river Thames abt 5 miles from the Sea (or more properly the Sound that lyes between long Isld And the Continent) And is Navigable for vessels that draw * 20 foot water there is but few vessels belonging to this port which are Chiefly in the west india trade, But as it is one of the Chiefe ports in Connecticut Governmt Many vessels that are Owned in Other parts of the Governmt come here to Clear out and go under the Name of New Londonery, They have Some very good wharfs here wch their vessels lay along Side of to load or discharge; The town Seems to Improve by the Appearance of their houses many of which Appear New And Neat all built of wood & 1750 Octoe 7th Consists of one Street about A mile long by the riverside, Altho' upon the Bank which is of a Moderate height and as Several lots on that Side the Street are not built it affords a fine prospect

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over the river and the Adjacent Country; There is in this Town One Episcopal Church and One Presbyterian Meeting house and now we are Enter'd Connecticut Government, The Chiefe of the trade of this Place Consists of Lumber, Porke, Horses &C to the westindies

* or any vessels wtever

Octoe 8th I bought a little mare from One Silas Cooke a Shoemaker to Mount Yorkshire upon which cost me wth Saddle & bridle £89 OT— and Left J: Scotts hired horse to be returnd by the post, and we Set out with our fr'd Capt Thos Oliver who proposed to See us on our way as far as New Haven We had very Stoney road to the rope ferry which is 6 miles we got 35 over very well being So narrow that a rope is Octoe 8 1750 Stretchd aCross for the Safty of travelers as the tide runs here with great violence, from hence to Say brook ferry is 12 Miles which is Near half a Mile wide and Crosses the Great River Called Connecticut which runs through the heart of this Province and is Navigable about 60 Miles up the Country as far as Hartford the Capital of the County & has a Considerable trade inland there is also two other towns that Stands on Each side the Conflux of this great river called Saybrook & Lime which have not much trade from Saybrook ferry to the widdow Lays is 7 miles Baited from thence to Killingworth 5 miles where we Lodged at one Merrils a very poor Indifferent house & had lodgings had Roasted Oisters for Supper Killingsworth is a pretty long Village of one Street of Houses The Land here abouts appeard to me to be rich and good and by Industry I believe wod produce plentifully

From Killingsworth to wst Guilford is 20 Miles, Octoe 9th 1750 Breakfasted at one Johnsons West Guilford is a large Country town with two Meeting houses of the Presbyterian Perswasion one, of the New and the Other of the Old light and a Church And a large Spacious green in the Centre of the Town and a fine Country about it, but no Navigable river; From hence to Branford is 10 Miles dined at one Proctors this is a Small Country town from hence to NEW HAVEN is 10 Miles 3 miles from which we crossed a Small ferry and a mile from that nearer Newhaven 36 we Cross a pretty river by a Long wooden Bridge where the tide flows above it considerably here we joyn the upper Road

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from Boston that runs through Octoe 9th 1750 the Country at a Considerable distance from the Sea & comes through Hartford, Wallingford & Ca here the produce wheat, Rye, Hops & abundance of Maze or Great corn which they Ship of at Newhaven where we Arrivd this Evening and Lodged at one McNeals an Irishman who keeps a tollerable good house Compared with what you meet with in common

NEW HAVEN is the Capital of the county, And covers a great deal of ground And has been laid out Regularly, but only built upon here and there it looks very indifferently, It is a Seaport & was Settled very early and was then the Capital of the Province, it is well Scituated for Trade being near the Center of the Government, Here the Councelle & Assembly Sit in this Month, here is also the County Goal And two large Presbyterian meeting houses one of the Old the other of the new light, Likewise a Colledge for the Education of youth Called YALE COLLEDGE, it is built of wood And Consists of one Long Narrow fabrick with Brick Chimneys running up the back part of it at Convenient distances the whole seems to be very much decayed, (which has put them upon building A new one of Brick which Seems to be About 3 foot Above the Ground & And will front towards a large Spacious green in the Middle of the town, there is in this Colledge a Very pretty Library And 37 well kept, their Books are many of 'em of Much Octoe 9 1750 Later date and better Choose then those at Cambridge They are Obliged for a good part of them to the late Dean Berkley now Byshop of Cloyne in Ireland, they have also Some Curositys in this Library And Some Aparatus for Natural & Experimental Philosophy This town has more Advantages then Any other in this Governmt as being A seaport, a great deal of Publick Bussiness transacted here as Courts & the Sitting of the Councell & Assembly And the great highroad that runs through North America and which divides about two Miles to the Eastwd as Mentiond Above As Also the Colledge which Brings many People here from different parts of the Country Especially at the Commencemt The Ground about this Town is exceeding levell and produces well but is not reckon'd So rich as it is farther up the Country—

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This Morning Set out for Milford which is 12 Octoe 10th 1750 Miles, (the Residence of GoveLaws) but the place being very Sickly did not Stop in it, It is a good large Country — town but no Seaport, we Kept on to Stratford ferry which is 4 Miles further which we Crossed and then turnd out of the road 2 Miles to See SamlLyons at one John Pimms where he lodgd found him Exceedg weak, we dined there & then Returnd to Stratford 3 miles it Rain'd Excessive hard both the forenoon and this afternoon we Called at A house here but could not have Entertainmt So we rode on to Pembroke farm, being 3 miles And 38 Lodged with one Lewis there who keeps a decent Clean house

Octoe 11th We Set forwd this Morning & breakfasted at Fairfield at one Penfields & had Chocolate & Plenty of Toast being 6 miles from hence we rode to NORWARK where we dined at one John Beldons a very good house & Civil people had a Dr of Lamb roastd here Sam Burling Joined us & We Set forward in the afternoon for NYork.

Octoe 11th 1750 From Fairfield to NORWALK is 12 Miles here is a pritty river which we Cross And about a mile below the town it is Navigable where We see some small vessels lying but we could not Learn that they had much trade here, from Norwark after dinner we rode to Horse Neck but first called at Stamford which is 10 Miles where we baited at a Sorry house where we had some Sour Madeira wine, 'Tis a tollerable Village and Some good land about it from thence proceeded to Horseneck 6 miles, but before we got there had Exceeding heavy rain was quite dark and Most Intollerable bad road We lodged at one Meads an Illnaturd old fellow and would Scarce give us lodging tho' we were under the Above hardships & his One Eyed wife little better then himself & wanted a barefooted fellow who we afterwards understood to be her Son to Sleep with one of us but we one & all refused the favour & where he went I Know not neither do I care—

39

From that Churlmeads at Horseneck we rode 3 Octoe 12th 1750 Miles of Most miserable road to Birom river where 1750 we Entered the Governmt of Newyork and presently Found an Alteration in the road & Buildings &C, Everthing from this Bridge bearing the Marks of

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Industry 7 miles more brought us to Marrowneck where we Breakfasted at a good Clean decent house, and had plenty of Tea Chocolate and Toast And also Sweetmeats, we had not seen Such Cheer since we left Rhode Island And as I observed before Industry appeared in the whole family the Girls hard at work Some Spinning wool others flax &C, from Marrowneck to Kingsbridge is 12 Miles here we dined with Some other Travelers at One Stephensons a Quaker who keeps one of the Best Eating houses we met with, we had a Bass fish taken out of the river by the door before our Eyes & some very good oysters &C This is one of the best built houses for a Tavern I have yet seen in America being Octo 12 1750 all built of good Stone the Apartments large and lofty And a Noble Prospect down towards the Sound; Here we cross the River upon a tall bridge built of wood the Inn & this bridge belong to the Same person; This river is a Branch of the Great North River that breaks out of it a little above this bridge and comes down this way and runs into the Sound above New York and is what makes York Island, & in Spring tides the water flows up this branch until runs Into the North river, but is no at all Navigable As there's abundance of rocks between this bridge and North river, This afternoon 40 we rode from Kingsbridge to New York being 13 Miles of very good road And is near the Length of york Island which is very Narrow but Butified with many handsome Seats belonging to the Gentlemen Octoe 12th 1750 In york, where we Arrivd About Sunsett and put up at the Sign of the Horse & Cart in the upper part of the City and prov'd to be very bad lodgings, altho 'tis a house much used

Octoe 13th Geo: Mifflin and Self dined with Saml Burling, and I went & Lodged with my friend William Coventry—

14 Geo: Mifflin & Self dined wth Wm Coventry & we both went to Meeting—

15 Geo Mifflin Set out for Philadelpa And I dined with Wm Coventry

16 I dined with John Fell, & Suppd wth T: Heysham

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17 Wm Coventry, David Algeo jr John Willett Thos Willett & mySelf Cross'd the ferry from NYork to Long Island where W. C. & myself hired a Chais and we all travelld to Jamaica being 12 Miles where we dined at one Wests, from thince W.Coventry David Algeo jr & Self went to Hempstead plains being 8 Miles And lodged wth D: Algeo Senr

18 We dined at David Algeo's Drank Tea at Gove Martins and lodged at David Algeo Senr

19 went to See Parson Davidsons farm, dined at Gove Martins, Returnd to Jamaica & Lodged at Wests (8 miles—

Octoe 20 1750 Jamaica is a pretty village and Stands in a Noble plain that Extends for many miles here is a Goal, a Court house, An Episcopal Church, a Dutch 41 Church, & a presbyterian Meeting house which makes a very pretty Appearance at Some distance having all of handsome little Spires &C We returnd from Jamaica by way of Flatbush a pretty village 10 Miles from Jamaica and 3 from the ferry here is arising ground where I went up and had an Extensive prospect to Sandyhook the Neversinks and out to Sea as also to the Inland part of the Country we got well over the ferry & home to dinner

At. W: Coventrys raind all ye day Octoe 21st

at My lodgings 23d at Do — 22d

Dined at Thomas Heyshams 24

Dined with Isaac Latouch 25

Dined wth John Willett & at James Burlings in 26 the Evening

Dined at John Fells wth Hy Holland 27 1750

At meetg & Dined wth Sam Burling Octo 28

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Dined with Wm Coventry and in the Afternoon Do 29 rode out to Harlem and Several other Country Seats in the Neighborhood along with John Fell Samuel Burling Giles Heysham & bought my roan Horse from one Edwd Croston a Butcher who came from Liverpoole which cost me £20

THE PROVINCE OF NEW YORK was first discovered by one Hudson in 1608 And Sold to the Dutch who called it Nova Belgia, But Exception was made agst the Sale by King James as being wthout his Licence, However it remaind in the Hands of the Dutch until the Reign of King Charles the Second when it was taken by Carr and — Nicholls in the 42 year 1664 & Settled by the English, About half the Dutch familys rather then remove themselves Choose to take the Oaths of Fidelity to the King of England and remain in their Settlements, the Descendants of which are Still very Numerous in the Province And very Industrious People—

1750 Octoe 29th The first bounds of this Province extended as far as Maryland So. , the Main Continent as far as they could go the the Westward And Connciticut or a part of New England to the E.ward It is now reduced to a much Narrower Compass, for King Charles 2d gave all that tract of Land between the North river & Maryland to the Duke of york, the Duke made a Grant of Part of it under Propriaton who called it East & West Jersey which are now the limits of this Province to the Westward, the Likewise Include Long Island (by the Dutch Called —Nassau Island) Statten Island And indeed they Claim all the Islands Eastward as far as Nantucket, but they have only the Name for it Seldom happens that they can get any taxes from them

THE CITY OF NEW YORK (formerly New Amsterdam) is Scituated on the South So: W point of york Island One part of the Town lying upon the 1750 Octoe 29th Sound that Separates this Island and the Mainland from Long Island, which is the Side of the town where all the Wharfs are Built and the Ships lye, The great North river Washes the other

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Side of the town facing the Jerseys which Said river & the Sound Join at the fort at the Lower end of the 43 town And form a Spacious Bay with many Pretty Small Islands in it

This City is well Scituated for bussiness having the Advantage of all the trade of Connecticut by the Sound as also the coast of Long Island And the Inland Country at least 200 miles by the North river large Sloops go as far as Albany wch is 166 miles and Smaller craft Amongst the Mohawks where they cary on a great trade with the Indians; and, About Albany & Esopus the make the finest flours in America, I was Credibly Informd that at the last mentiond place there has been Sold Farms at £50 ?Acre taking in the whole Est PMeasure Sandy Hook is reckon'd 10 leagus from the Town Octoe 29 1750 this is where we enter the Ocean but I cannot think it so much as we run it down to the Hook in 2 hours indeed we had the Advantage of Wind & tide

The vessels by this means in the winter are Soon into the Harbour, And Soon out when the wind Serves, when in other ports they are frequently frose up

As I said before the wharfs & places where there vessels lye are on the Eastside of the Town & for the whole Length of it there is a good depth of water And all vessels Load & Discharge without the help of boats or lighters which is very convenient,

Neither their Streets nor houses are at all Regular Some being 4 or 5 Story high & Others not above two, Not any of the Modern houses are built wth the Gable End to the Street as was formerly the 1750 Octoe 29 fashion amongst all the old Dutch Settlers, but are 44 many of 'em Spacious Genteel houses Some are built of hewn stone Others of English & Also of the Small white Hollands Brick, which looks neat but not grand, their houses are Generally neat within and well Furnished, Notwithstanding there Still remains too many of the Old Dutch houses which prevents its Appearing to Advantage, The Streets (as above) are very Irregular & Crooked & many of 'em much too Narrow they are Generally pretty well paved which adds much to the decency & Clean-ness of the place & the Advantage of Carriage, The Water in the Pumps & Springs here is a little of the Brackish tast They fetch

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the Water all without the Gate that they use for Tea &C & several people get their Living by carting of it into town where they Sell it by the pale & Ca

Octoe 29th 1750 Their Publick Buildings are; first the City Hall a large Strong Stone Building the lower part is Seemingly intended for a Change to meet in, as it Stands all upon Arches and is Open like a Market house; Above Stairs are Apartmts for the Gove Councell & Assembly to meet in, And make Laws for the good of the province, there Also is Other Rooms for the Courts of Justice to Sit in, and Order these Laws to be put in due force & Execution And in Order to make the Most of this Building they Have converted the Garratts into a prison for Drs & fellows a Comfortable place Say, take it throughout; the Goveshouse is in fort George and makes a Good apearance at a distance there was a Church of England Chapell within this fort but was burnt 45 down in the time of their Negro plot, This fort is 1750 Octo 29 well Scituated to maul the Ships as they come up being very low, And close by it to the East ward is a fine battery which mounts a great Number of Guns almost Even with the water's edge; There is also five Market houses fixed at proper distances from the water Side & from One Another, Only three of them is much frequented, And I am of Opinion if they were all Fixed in one place it would be much the best; Here are two Episcopal Churches, which are Large & Strong Buildings of Hewn Stone, and as it must be Allowd to be the most fashionable religion, So it Seems to me here as well as in most other parts of North America to Prevail here is also Four Dutch Churches Two of the Lutheran the Other of the Calvinistical Order, All which are Large, & formerly were very much crowded but many of the Octoe 29 1750 young People fall of to the National form; As do the young people in General from the French Church which now has but a Small Congregation, Here is also A Presbyterian Meeting house which is Large, and has great number of that Society which frequents the Same, and duly attend their prayers, Lectures &C 3 times every Sabath day; One Jews Synagogue, And one meeting of Friends which is but small their Meetinghouse is of Brick which is neat, built about Two years ago, 1 Moravian & 1 Whitfield mg do but both in private houses

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The People here are very gay in their dress but more particularly in the furniture of their houses &C They have of Late a very Extensive trade to 46 the Bay of Honduras for Log wood which has been of great Service to the Place in making their European Remittances for dry goods & Ca which without this trade puzzles them a good deal when bills are Scarce

1750 Octoe 29th They have also An Extensive trade to the West-indies & Ca As, Jamaica St Thomas, Santa Cruz, Surrinam, Curiacoa, in A perticular manner, As Also in a lesser degree to Antigua Barbados, St Kitts & Ca For Bread, Flour, Pork, Beefe, Horses, Lumber, of Sundry sorts as Boards, Plank, Joists, Staves & Heading, Shingles Hoops, & Ranging Timber

They also Build many vessels here of all Sizes, And are well Supply'd with Timber from the Jerseys from Long Island And also from Statten Island which I believe to be the Best in this part of the Country as it grows near the Sea and upon a Clay Soil

I would likewise observe that the Trade of the Jerseys is pretty much divided between, New York and Philadelphia, the which is a great Advantage to Both; The Yorkers draw a Great quantity of Bread 1750 Octoe 29th Flour, and wheat, yearly from the Jerseys by way of Amboy, and down Rariton river by way of Brunswick there being a very good Corn Cuntry up that river

This City also reaps great Advantages by the Navigation of the North or Hudsons river, As the City of Albany lyes so Near the Indians that it 47 Enables them to Cary on the furr Trade to greater Advantage then Any other Province in America, And helps them in their Remittances to England

About Ten o'Clock this day I left New York Octoe 30 And took the ferry boat for Staten Island Commonly caled Combe's Ferry we were Becalmed upon the water And Expected to've been driven back to N: Y by the floodtide however we got over very well About one

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o'Clock and went to Vantiles's Tavern being Reckon'd 9 Miles from N York We dined upon Oisters Roasted & Raw and had some Good Madeira

From Vantiles to Elizabeth town point is 6 miles Octoe 30th 1750 we crossed the Sound here that Seperates Staten Island from the Main Land of the Jerseys into which enter by Crossing this ferry 3 miles further brought us to the Burrough of Eliza town, This is a good inland town, but no manner of Regularity in the Streets or houses being built in the Nature of a Good large Village with Some tollerable good houses, They have a Mayor Alderman Recorder & C: Councel from this Town to Woodbridge is 12 Miles this is a good large Country Town and Built Irregularly Much like Elizabeth Town, 3 Miles further brought me to the Antient City of Amboy (als) Perth Amboy I Lodged at the Widdow Serjeants which is the best if not the Only Tavern in the place, This day being the Kings birthday About a dozen Gentlemen met at my lodgings to Spend the Evening Octoe 30th 1750 to wit, John Richard & Campbell Stevens Dr Johnson John Minikey, John McKivers Andrew 48 Smyth & Ca we Spent the Evening very agreeably only Sat up a little too late

They have here a Mayor, Alderman, Recorder And Common council men for the order & Regulation of the City

The Gove Councell & Assembly of the Jerseys Meet here and at Burlington Alternately, They have here a Courthouse, a Goal, An Episcopal Church A Presbyterian Meeting house & And a pretty market house but believe but little use for it; I do imagine the Plan of this City has been laid out very regular by the Appearance of Some part of it but being So thin Built and the houses and Gardens & C So intersperst that its hard for a Stranger to form a Notion how the Streets ought to run, however the Houses that are Built are tollerable good and I imagine about 70 or 80 in Number

Octoe 30 1750 This City is built upon a Neck of land that lyes between Rariton river and the Sound that Parts Statten Island from this place; here is a fine Harbour And water enough Up to the Bank Side, Wharfs may be here built with great care and very little

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Charge, this Place is finely Scituate for trade, as it is so near the Sea, Water Enough at all times to come up to the town, The Sound on one Side of the town and Rariton river on the Other which is Navigable 12 Miles up to the City of Brunswick; Yet by the want of People of Fortune and Spirit to carry on trade the Place is poor And I am of Opinion will remain So as they are Remarkable for their Laziness & the Oppulent City of NYork so near 49 them that the greatest part of the trade centers there, The People of this City now and then Send a vessel to the west Indies And to Lisbon or Madeira wth wheat but not often, They also build vessels here for wch I think tis an Extraordinary good Scituation, for they have plenty of Timber near them not only in the Jerseys, but also on Staten Island & I take the wood hereabouts to be as good or Better than Any thats farther up the Country as its near the Sea Octo 30th 1750 Winds, and upon a Clay Soil And farther A great privalege or Benefit is that they may thoroughly Soak the plank and timbers in the Sea water

The Soil here Seems to Me to be but very poor further inland is much better for Grass or Grain

This morning Set out for Brunswick which is 12 31st Miles and Stands upon the River Rariton which Crossd at the Ferry And dined there, Called to See Doctor Messer who lives here and very well, This City is Small, but pretty well built, They have Small craft that comes up here with the flood tide but the river other ways is fordable and a great many banks and Shoals in it, They build Some Sloops and Small vessels here from Brunswick I went to a Small Village Called Kingston 15 Miles & from thence to Prince Town 3 Miles Where I lodged at one Sam: Horners at the Union Flag, A very good Country House and Good Accomodans From this little Country Town you Have A noble Prospect (as any I met with in America) towards Egg Harbr Burlington & Trenton Also to the Northward along way up 50 1750 Octoe 31st Rariton river And in the whole over a large Extent of land

Novr 1st Set forward this Morning and by 10 o'Clock reached Trenton being 12 Miles (Rained all the way) And breakfasted at Elisha Bonds who came from Near Lancaster (I think from Cockram) And his wife from Warrington, as it rain'd I staid and dined here this

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is a Pretty Small Town that lyes About a Mile from the river Delaware where we cross it at the ferry Called Trenton ferry this is the Extent of the Navigation of the river Above which we See many Rocks above water So that tis Imposible for a Boat to Pass them After dinner I crossed Trenton ferry Entered Pensilvania and Travell'd thro the Mannor of Pensburry which is mostly in woods to Bristol City which is 20 Miles where I Lodged at a tolerable house, Not near so good as Elisha Bonds my Countryman

2d Set forward this Morning at 8 o'Clock To Neshamony ferry 3 miles to — Frankford a Small village 12 Miles To Philadelphia 5 Miles was there by 1750 Novr 2d twelve o'Clock or I believe half an Hour Sooner, dined at John Biddles at the Sign of the Indian King in Market Street, from whence in the afternoon I proceeded to Ben Bagnalls in front Street with my fr'd Geo Mifflin where I took Lodgings

3d I dined with Geo: Mifflin Senr

4 Dined at home 5 Do 6th at Jno Bringhams

7 At home Rode in the Afternoon wthG: M And B: B to see Robt Hopkin's Grass

At Point No point

51

At home Sent Yorkshire wththe 2 horses to R. 8 Hopkins to Grass

At home & Walked in the afternoon to Colt-house's 9th ferry on Schuykill being two miles

At home 11th at home 10th

Dined at I: Pemberton jrs 13th at home 12

At home took a Purge 15th at Do not well 14

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Dined with John Meas. 17th at home 16

At home. 19th at Do 20th Dined with Jno Reynells 18

Dined with John Smith 21

Dined with Willm Logan 23d At home 22

At home 25th at Do 26th at Do 24

At home 28th at Do Much Rain 27

At home 30th at Do 29

At home 2d at Do 3d at Do — Decr 1st

Dined with Isaac Greenleafe 4th

At home 6th at Do 7th at Do 1750 Decr 5th

At home 9th at Do 10th at Do and I Ordered my roan horse from Grass & Sent him to Stable at the 8 Indian Queen

I Borrowd la Pembertons horse and I went with 11 Israel Pemberton jr to the funeral of Reginere Tyson at Abington being 12 miles Thence to Dunk's ferry upon Delaware 14 Miles which we Crossd And Rode to Burlington wch is 3 Miles Lodged with Charles Read

we Breakfasted with Cha. Read and dined with 12 Ebenezar Large where also dined Mary Weston fro London Margt Bound from New York & Peter Fearon With Sundry others

Burlington is the Chief City or metropolis of 52 West Jersey And is Scituate upon the river Delaware Consisting of one Spacious large Street that runs down to the river which makes a fine prospect into Pensilvania with Several Short cross Streets that Terminate in

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this Principal one, here are tollerable good Buildings And the Land and Country about it very good and Level the Abound wth fine 1750 Decr 12th Orchards and Gardens, & Ca They have a good Trade here in Pickled porke And Hams which the Send to the city of Philadelphia for Exportation to the West Indies, Publick buildings are A court house for the Councell And Assembly, underneath which is a Goal this Edifice looks old & makes but a Poor figure Considering the Advantageous Scituation being built in this fine Open street there is Also An Episcopal Church and two friends Meeting houses

This Afternoon Returnd back over Dunk's ferry to Philadelphia wch is 20 Miles in Compa wth sd M Weston Margaret Bownd Saml Bowne Is: Greenleafe I: Pemberton jr & Ca —

13 Dined at John Mifflins and walkd in the Afternoon to Schuykill

14 At home went in the Afternoon over the ferry to the Jerseys in compa wth G Mifflin jr & B: Bagnall And returned in the Evening

15 At home 16th at home Hard frost

17 At home 18th at Do writing letters frosty

19 At home 20 at Do 21st at home Rain, Snow, And violent wind

1750 Decr 22d At home all day, Snow, Do Sent P Bard to 53 Antigua 2 half bushels, bees wax, 2 Rounds beefe And 3 hats—

At home Drink't tea wth Jno Reynells 23d

At home a Pleasant day 25th Dined with Thomas 24 Hatton & Capt Phillips

At home Rained all day 26

At home and hard frost 27

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At home Hard frost and very Cold 28

At home Hard frost, the Ice So strong as to bear 29 over the river, The Coldest day that has been for many years

At home 30

Set out for Mary Land in Company with Mary 31st Weston, Easter White, Ia: Pemberton Israel Pemberton jr Wm Logan And Sundry others to the lower ferry on Schuylkill is 3 miles thence to Darby 5 miles And to Chester 8 miles where we dined at the Widdow Lloyds this town Stands upon the rive Delaware And one Might Imagine well Scituate for trade but I could not Perceive the least traces of any thing of the kind it is the Metropolis of the County and has courts of Judicature held there I do not See its Remarkable for any thing Else; from Chester to Brandy Wine toll Bridge 14 Miles to Wilmington 3 Miles we lodged at One Ganthonys This 1750 Decr 31st Town is a very modern one being but a few years Since it was first laid out & built all the houses being new & built of Brick, is in a very good country for Wheat and flour, Abundance of which is brought here for Sale the Greatest part of which is sent up to Philada in Shallops, and a part Shipt by 54 the Inhabitants for the Westindies but the Inhabitants being many of them in low Circumstances cannot make any great figure in trade this town lyes about 2 or 3 miles from the River Delaware on a Creek Called Christeen Creek but have water enough for good vessels up to their Wharfs where they may load or discharge.

Jane 1st This Morning we set out and got to Ogletown 12 Miles (Near this place we Enter Cecil County in Maryland) where we dined, from thence to the Head of Elke river 9 Miles, Thence by the head of North East And Principio Iron works to Susquehannah ferry is 15 Miles, where we lodged at the ferry house & Good Entertainmt

1750–1 Jane 2d This morning we passed the Great river Susquehannah upon the Ice, the river here is deemd 3 miles over, the horses were led over before us and we followed on

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foot only the two women had each a Ladder laid down upon the Ice and there baggage thereon, upon wch they Sat down and were drawn over by 2 Men; who Slipt of their shoes and run so fast that we could not keep way with them, This ferry is Just at the head of Chesapeak bay, from whence we Proceeded to Jacob Giles's in Baltimore County 3 Miles where we dined, And in the Afternoon we went to Wm Coxes at Rock run Thro' large tall woods all the way (Except Some very small Plantations being 6 miles where we Lodged

3d From Wm Coxes we went to dear creek to A Meetg and Called by the way at An Iron forge 55 which is large and Extreemly well fitted, they work three fires which are at a good distance from One Another, and the roofe being raised very high, they must be well adapted for that hot Country in the Summer Season here the work 2 hammers one for the Chaffry and one for the Two finerys one of wch 1751 Jane 3d is Blown by a pair of wooden Bellows that are fixed with Springs within but I cannot describe the Nature of the working, with Pen and Ink, only the may be Observed they are of the Same Shape and the Bellow boards and Harness the Same to a trifle as those done with Leather — from Coxe's to dearcreek is 5 miles we dined at our friend James Rigbys and in the afternoon travell'd through the woods to James Lees is 5 miles where we lodged

This Morning we rode from Jas Lees to Bush 4th river meetg 12 Miles, Thro'. Wood, and very uneaven Ground, hard frost & Snow upon the Ground, The woods here Abouts are the Tallest I see any where in North America, And I believe the Soil is very good but very little of it Cleared; here I met Stephen Onion Esqr who I had Corosponded wth Several years, And went with him to his house 9 Miles to Gun powder Ironworks where I lodged, he lives very Genteely And has Close by his house 2 Iron forges An Iron Furnace a Grist mill and A Large Smiths Shop where all Kinds of Black work is done And a Saw Mill for Boards or any other 1750 Jane 4th Kind of Timber for the use of his works, he has here plenty of water and a Good head and his dam is very large and at the Same time not above 56 100 yards from the forge, he has dug a Channel through a Rock that brings the Water out of the upper dam to both forges and the furnace is abt 200 yards below the forges his Iron mines are Just by his works, and for wood it Abounds in this County as

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I observed before, very little Clear'd ground to be met with, I here See a pair of wooden Bellows open and had an Opportunity to view them more Satisfactorily then those wch were at work at Dear Creek forge the Shell or rim of the upper bellowboard Slides over the lower one, as the upper part of a Box goes down upon the Bottom part and there is a great number of Short Square peices of Wood which are Shoulded one upon Another and kept close together with Springs to prevent the Air's Escaping between the upper And lower part that Slides over each other. upper And lower part that Slides over each other.

1751 Jane 5th This day came from Isaac Websters Several of our Company & Dined at Stephen Onions, after which MW E.W. John Giles &C Set out for the river of Potomack and Virginia & about 4 o'Clock and hard frost I. P. And Self set our for Jacob Giles's by way of Joppa to Bush river landg 8 Miles where there is a very good furnace, but being dark we had not an Opportunity of viewing the Same we baited here and then rode to Jacob Giles's 12 Miles where got about 9 at night and was very kindly reced I observe in all this County the Country is mighty uneven, And quick rising & falling, in the road, and the Country all Cloathed with tall timber 57 trees of different Species, the largest & talest kind I observed the call a tulep tree, barked very much like an oak but Something of a dead flower remains upon the Branches all the Winter, which in Some sort resembles a tulep, And Appears at A distance to be 1750–1 Jane 5th a flower in full bloom this wood makes good boards for the Inside work of a house being very white and free from knots, but at the Same time very Soft and Spungy here are few plantations Clear'd & those very small There houses in General very bad and ill contrived there furniture mean; there Cooks and houswifry worse if possible Except at S: O. And J: G. where we were Genteely Entertained both as to Eating, drinking, And Lodging

I. Pemberton & Self Set out this Morning for Jane 6th Philadelphia (hard frost and has been all this week) and came to Susquehannah river 3 miles where crossed the Same upon the Ice which is called 3 Miles More, hence to Principio Ironworks is 5 Miles, These were the first works in the Country as the name denotes, hence to North East Iron Works is 2 Miles where we called and baited with the Chiefe Manager, One Baxter who is in the

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Commission of the Peace, and has the direction of these & Principio works they belong to a Company in Londn and are Esteemd to make the best Iron And they Certainly have the best workmen in America but I observe they all Employ many negros in their works, these works as will as those on the other side of Susquehannah are very large and co?odiu#s; 58 hence to the Head of Elk river 8 miles to Ogletown 9 miles dined at Ogles the proprer who keeps a tollerable good tavern, the Ground here begins to be more generally Clear'd, and Appears to be pretty good, Hence to Wilmington is 12 Miles Lodged wth David Farris had our horses at Jos: Littlers, And Snow'd all the way from ' Sque Baxters

Jane 7 Staid at Willmington, Snowed all the day, Went to See B: Shipley & my old Acquaintance Rot Richardson Israel Pemberton left me ye morn'g & rode home—

Jane 8th Set forward (deep Snow) from hence to Brandy-wine Tolbridge 3 Miles to Chester 14 Miles where I 1750—1 Jane 8th dined at a very good house And had Some Mulld Cyder to Keep up our Spirits, very Cold, from Chester I got next to Schuylkill ferry (by way of Darby a very good village in the way) 13 miles thence to the City of Philadelphia 3 Miles and got to my lodgings before dark

Do 9th At home 10 at home 11 At home

12 Ben Bagnall & Wife T: Bagnell *Geo Mifflin* John Lacy P. Newbury and my Self went in two Slays to Germin Town being 6 miles to dinner and returned in the Even.g in 40 Minutes this kind of traveling is only whilst the Snow continues upon the Ground, as they have no wheels but only Stands upon two pieces of wood that Lyes flat on the Ground like a North of England Sled, the fore part turning up with a bent to Slyde over Stones or any little rising and are Shod with Smooth Plates of Iron to prevent their wearing Away too fast.

59

The Sides of this Machine are boarded up about 1751 Jane 12th 18 Inches high & the Ends Much higher with one seat forward and the other behind, each holds two persons compleat as a Coach the 2 horses are Harnessd in the same manner as for a Wheel

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carriage abating for the goodness, and a pole from the forepart lyes between the horses as in a Charrot, the driver Stands right up in the forepart of the Slay and goes at a prodigious Speed, All Ranks of people Covet this kind of Traveling or diversion for whilst the Snow lyes upon the ground all the Carters or dray men lay all other business aside And Stand as regularly at proper places to be hired (as the Hackney Coaches do in London) to go to the Neighbouring villages there to Eat, drink & return in the Eveng & Some later enough at Night

At home begun to thaw very fast and raind all 13th day, and towards Eveng the Ice in the River begun to break

At home 15th at Do 16th at Do rainy Weather 1750—1 Jan 14th

17th I dined at John Mifflins

18 I dined at George Mifflins Senr

At Home 20th at Do 21 st at Do 19th

At home & We had the Most violent gale of wind 22d at So and S&BW which some one Brig. at the Wharfe very much damaged another, And indeed several vessels And houses Suffered greatly, the top of the Wind mill Aposite to the town blown of, And its said there has not been so much damage reced here the many years

60

23d At home Spent the evening wth Jos Saunders

24th At home 25th at Do Walked to Colthouse's

26th At home 27th at Do 28th at home had a Coat & Breeches made by I. Fullerton

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29th I went to the Superior Court held at the State house when there was brought before the Court upon an Indictment for house breaking And Accessorys John Morris Eliza Robinson Jno Crow Francis Mc Coy and his wife And John Stinson, before Chiefe Justice Allen & Judge John 1750—1 Jane 29th Morris Pleaded Guilty, McCoy and his Wife Robinson Crow & Stinson Pleaded not Guilty, A lad from Maryland (who followed this Robinson from thence hearing She was in Goal here last year And bound himself Printice to raise some money to procure her freedom, & then She and he with others, was to Steal to raise Money to buy his time out) one Turner by name being also taken up one of the first of the Gang & Examd turn'd Kings Evidence agst all the rest And was the Most Material witness against them And after a tryall of Near 9 hours the Jury brot, in McCoy, Robinson & Crow Guilty Accordg to the Indictmt As Accesarys before the fact Committed Stinson Guilty as an Accessary after the fact committed by Consealing Morris in his house wh Search was made for him by the proper offecers, and a reward of £60 offerd for the Aprehending of him, Mc Coy's Wife not Guilty, As acting under the Coersive power of her husband

1750—1 Jane 30th I was in Court when Morris Robinson Crow And Mc Coy reced Sentence of death Stinson was brought 61 in Guilty but he Pleading a Certain Act which is Equall to the Benefit of the Clergy was only burnt in the hand, and that Moderately enough, And orderd to give Security for twelve months And the forfeiture of all his goods and Chattels

I dined with John Meas 31st

I dined with John Bringhurst Febyr 1st

At home Wrote to Sundrys P Mitchel at Lond: 2d

At home dined With Jos: Crosby 3d

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At home at Qty Meetg 5th At home & Ca 4th

At home 7th Dined with Tho Hatton and at Capt 6 T. Phillips in ye Afternoon

At home 8.

Dined at home in the Afternoon John Pickering 9th jr & Self went home with Owen Evans Esqr to Northwales being 20 Miles which we Rode in 3h 25m

We went to No Wales Meeting 10

Continued with O: E being a Stormy day 11

From O: Evans we Called at J: Evans So to 12 German Town And home Owen Evans with us

I this day dined with Is: Pemberton Senr & My 1750–1 Feby 13th old Acquaintance Jonah Thompson And this day were Executed on the Common John Morris, Fr: Mc Coy & Eliza Robinson; John Crow was Reprieved under the Gallows & this Evening Capt John Lacy of Whitby Sailed hence for Virginia

At home & M.g Dined with Wm Logan 14th

At home Great rain & Snow 15

At home 17 Do & at M.g 16.

At home Settling Accts with Sundrys 18

62

19. At home Do

20. At home Do

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21. At home & M.g

22d At home and in the Evening had a few friends at the Coffee ho

23d At home & Dined wth Is: Pemberton jr

24 At home And At M.g, And now According to My former Method I shall Proceed to Say Somthing of the Province of Pensilvania & City of Philadelphea before before My Departure for N: York

1750–1 Feby 24th PENSILVANIA is one of the most considerable of the Northern Colonies William Pen Esqr Son of Sr Wm Pen obtained the Grant for this Province in 1679 and gave it the Name of Pensilvania by which name it is called in the Original Patent from King Charles the 2d dated the 4th March 1680 And Contains a tract of Land lying between the beginning of the 40th 43d degree of North Latd and bounded by the River Delaware to the East which Separated this Province from NJersey, To the North by the Indian Nations to the west & South by Maryland and the Sea; This Province has Increased more in its Inhabitants then Any of its Neighbours, Owing to the Number of German & Irish Passengers who Anually come here and Settle with their wives & familys often 4 or 5000 in a year Many of which are now become People of extensive fortunes, both in the Towns and likewise in the Country after the first grant of Pensilvania which containd the three uper Counties of Buckingham, 63 Philadelphia, and Chester, By King Charles the 1750–1 Feby 24th Second; Pen Obtained a Another Grant from the Duke of York for part of Nova Belgia or the Province of New York which lyes between Maryland and the River Delaware, from Marcus Hook 4 miles below Chester along the river 120 Miles & terminates 20 Miles below Henopen, this is computed to be 40 Miles deep between the Delaware & Maryland and is divided into the 3 lower Counties Called Newcastle, Kent, & Sussex, Notwithstanding they have but one Gove over the whole, yet the three lower counties have their own Separate councel & Assembly, make their own Laws, Their own Paper Currency and hold their own Assemblys at Newcastle, where the Gove Attends

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during their Deliberations, as he does at Philadelphia for the 3 upper Counties The Gove is Apointed by the Propriators And confirmed 1750–1 Feby 24th by the King, their Assembly is Choose Anually and commonly make two Sessions or Sittings (viz') In January & August at Philadelphia I do not Know wt time the Assembly for the Lower Countys Sit but it must be Some part of the Interval between the Sittings at Philadelphia upon Accot of ye Gove being obliged to be there

PHILADELPHIA is the Capital of the Province, and perhaps one of the best Laid out Citys in the world and if built According to the Plan wod be large enough for the Head of an Empire it is An Oblong Square Extending betwist two Navigable rivers the Delaware And Schuylkill two miles in 64 length And the long streets 9 in Number from Et to Wt between river & River, to be cut at Right Angles by others of one Mile in Length and Twenty in Number fro. No to So all Straight as a Line & Spacious But as the first Settlers of this City begun upon the Banks of Delaware 1750–1 Feby 24th For more then a Mile in Length they have not been Able to Build so far Inland between the two Rivers as to Come Near the place intended for the Center of the City, the furthest that is yet Built upon is either 6th or 7th Street from Delaware exclusive of a Certain Street built between Front street and the River called water Street one Side of which is mostly built upon ground made out of the river & was never Intended in the Original Plan of the City which is well Scituated fore Trade Tis about one Hundred & twenty Eight miles from this City to Cape Henlopen or Lewis Town and very good Navigation in General, tis in * most places 6 or 7 fathom in the Stream And to the Wharfs the have water enough for Large Ships to load & unload without the help of boats or lighters, the river here is three quarters of a Mile wide And has Islands in it Above & below the Town 1750–1 Feby 24th There is belonging to this town a great Number of Ships, and from hence a very Extensive trade is Carrd on to all the English Islands in the west Indies for Bread, Flour, Porke, Hams, Indian Corn, Buckwheat Oats, Apples & Ca , Also hogshead & Barrel Staves & heading of white Oak Esteemd the Best in NAmerica, Shingles, Hoops, Bar Iron &C. also live

* See the End of this Itinerary

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65 Stock as Sheep, Geese, Turkeys, Ducks & fowles in great Plenty; But Some of their Chiefe men and Such as fill the Most Stble places & Posts in the Governmt drive on a very large & Contraband Trade with the French at Leogan, the cape, &C for Sugar And Molosses, to the great damage of the Honest And fair Trader.

They have also a good trade for wheat, Staves & Ca , to Madeira, Lisbon, And Several parts of Spain, to Say Nothing of that Extensive trade between them & their Mother Country for Black walnut 1750–1 Feby 24th and other valuable wood of different kinds, Large Qtys of Pig and Bar Iron and that of an Excellent Quality, by Encouragemt large quantitys of Hemp might be raised here, And as to Flax they raise Abundance it is Supposed that in the Article of Flax-seed Produced in this province the receive from Ireland upwards of 40,000 annually

The Publick buildings in this City are, first the State house which was built in the year 1732 and is Esteemd a Grand Eddifice for (besides a Lobby in the Center the Dementions of wch is 40 by 20 feet) There are Two rooms of 40 feet Square and 30 feet high (one on Each Side said Lobby) the one for the Assembly, the Other for the Supream Court or Grand sessions on the 2d floor is the Councel Chamber And Committee room, And a Gallery of 100 feet Long, Adjoining to Wch on the South side of the Same is a Large Tower & Cupulo wth a bell in it

This Bell is used during the Sitting of the Assembly 1750–1 Feby 24th to Call them together at the Same hour— Here 66 is also in The Broad or Market street a Guild or Town hall, where the Courts of Common Pleas are held, and also the City Courts & Other Publick bussiness is Transacted And under which is a Market house and upon Other days Publick vendues are Carried on here; Also 2 other Publick market Places upon Society hill; Likewise a very large building erected by Whitfield and his followers but Sold by them and now Converted into An Academy for youth in the different branches of Learning and Succeeds to Admiration, Likewise the Quakers School house, which which is a good pile of Building, The Quakers Alms house, The City alms house, the Infirmary, The Hospital,

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The Goal And the workhouse; as to Places of Worship there is the Episcopal Church wch is large, and of Late has reced the Addition of a Steeple, and Spire, 1750–1 Feby 24th There is also 2 Quakers Meetg houses and another Building upon Society hill, 2 Presbyterian meeting houses, One Baptist meeting house, one dutch Calvinist & one dutch Lutheran Church, one Moravian Do one Sweeds Church, And one of the Methodist or Whitfieldians which was built by the Charity of the Inhabitants and has the noted Gilbert Tennant for their Pastor; one Romish Chappel, which I believe compleats the Number of Places of worship, Here is in this City Some Jews, but they are not allowed any Place of Public Worship as not being of the Christian Profession

In the year 1749 the Houses in this City were Carefully Numberd And found to Amount to 2076 67 By which it Appears to be the Largest City in our America for in the year 1746 by an Exact Acco And that upon Path, there was only 1760 Dwelling houses in Boston and in New York in the year 1751 there was 2050 houses, By which Accots And Also another that was taken at Philada in the year 1750 there then was in that City 2100 dwelling houses, And the greatest part of them built of Brick and three Storys high, and well Sashed, So that this city must make (take it upon the whole) a very good figure, and only wants the Streets to be Paved to make it appear to advantage, for there is few Towns if any in England that are better Illumind with Lamps & those of the best Sort, nor their watch better regulated,

*This city is Governed by a Mayr Recorder and 24 1750–1 Feby 24th aldermen Common Councell men And other of inferior Officers as usual

* See the latter end of this Itinerary

I forgot to mention a very good Library that is well Kept in the left wing of the State house, and in wch is a large Collection of Books on Different Subjects which are Lent out by the Library Keeper upon a Note being given by the Borrower to return the Book in a Certain time, and an Acknowledgment to the Propriators for the Use of it—Likewise James Logan

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Built in his lifetime a Library for the Reception of his valuable collection, but was not Completed when I was there

German Town Seven Miles from Philadelphia Consists but of one Street and is Chiefly inhabited 68 by Germans, 'tis near 2 Miles long & carries on a very great Trade in Making Stockings &C both of thread and Woolen yarn wch is Milled and thereby made very warm And Suitable to their weather Lancaster I am informed is a large and a thriving town Scituate About 60 Miles inLand and the Chiefe part of the Town belongs to the Present Gove Ja Hamilton They Produce in that part abundance of Excellent Wheat flax &C &C The Propriators are now Thomas & Richard Pen Esqrs What Improvmts may in time be made is hardly to be guesd at, but I was well Informed that the Anual income is Clear £25000 Cash, that Curry, or upwards of £15,000 Ster?

Notwithstanding the great Numbers of Germans and others that yearly Arrive and Settle in this Province, yet in many places the ground remains uncultivated & Abundance of wood land remains yet uncleared; Their oak timber in this Governmt Seems to me to be of the very worse Quality of Any in America, I observe in divers places where very tall fine Oaks to Apearance has been blown down by hard gales of Wind Pticularly in the Mannor of Pensburry, that in a Short time the whole Trunk that laid upon the Ground would Moulder into dirt and So lay upon the Ground in a ridge the whole Length 1750—1 Feby 24th of the tree plainly Shewing where it laid, tho' nothing but a Ridge of Mud or dirt remains So that it is Evident to me that Vessels built in this Country, without Some method of Seasoning the Materiels 69 very well, both timber & Plank must decay in a very Short time

I will only Observe that Philada is Remarkable for having the largest and best Market in America it Abounds with Beefe, Mutton, veal, Porke, all kinds of Poultry as Turkeys wild & tame, Geese, ducks Wild & tame, Dunghill fowls, Pheasants, Quails, wild Pidgeons, also Venison as fallow Deer in abundance, Rabbits, &C And great Plenty of fruite & Roots as Potatoes, Turneps, Parsneps Carratts Cabbage &C &C

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This day tooke leave of my friends in Philadelphia, 1750—1 Feby 25th Dined with B Bagnell & about 2 o'Clock Set out for Burlington Ia: Pemberton Tho: Crosby Sam: Burge went with me to Frankfort 5 Miles And George Mifflin & Ben: Bagnall went with me to Burlington we Crossed at Dunk's ferry, To Burlington is 15 Miles fro: Frankfort and all good Road, I need not Say anyting further of Burlington having mention'd it 12th Decr last

Lodged last night at the Tavern, this day at Meeting J Thompson from Engd there as also Gove Belcher And Sundry People of Distinction, Dined wth Charles Read Speaker of the Assembly, and in the afternoon Crossed the ferry here from the City of Burlington to the City of Bristol in Pensilvania Govermt As Burlington is in the Jerseys— Bristol has the name of a City but in England would make but a poor village however it is Pleasantly Scituate upon the Bank of the River Delaware from hence 70 I went this Evening to Trenton (12 Miles) to Elisha Bonds All night

1750—1 Feby 27th Set out this morning from Trenton in Wt Jersey to Prince Town (12 Miles) and Breakfasted with one Same Horner from Thence to Brunswick 18 miles Dined; Crossd the ferry here and got to Perth Amboy this Evening & Lodgd at the Widdow Sarjeants, 12 *miles*

28th Over Amboy ferry this morning to Staten Island (see Accot Amboy Octo 30th) and thence Along sd Island to the Narrows being 18 miles Over the ferry 2 Miles And dined at the ferry house (where I see my Old Acquaintance Ben Bispham Coming from NYork to his own house at Mt Holy in the Jerseys) from this house to the Village of Flat Bush is 5 Miles, from thence to NYork ferry house upon long Island is 5 miles Blowing hard here I staid all night

March 1st This morning I went over at the ferry to NYork and dined wth Wm Coventry

2d Lodged wth Wm Coventry & Dined wth Do

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3d At Meeting dined & Suppd wth M Bowne

4 Dined wth Isaac Latouch

Do Suppd wth John Axell (W C. there)

5 Dined wth Thos Duncan in wall Street

Snow Yesterday & this day

1750—1 March 6th I dined wth William Coventry

7. I dined with John Willett Esqr

8. I set out over the ferry Called at Ramseys at the ferry house for my horse where I left him when I 71 returned to NYork from hence to Jamaica 12 Miles & Called at Wests an Excellent house where I baited & proceeded to David Allgeo's upon Hampstead plains (8 miles) drank tea at Collo Martins at David Allgeo's All night

Came from David Allgeo's to Jamaica '8 Baited 9th at Wests to new York in the Evening 12 Miles Left my horse at the ferry house Kept by Ramsey

At meeting at NYork dined wth Ia Burling Supped 10 with Do —

Dined wth Saml Burling Suppd wth Wm Coventry. 11.

Dined wth W. C 13th Dined wth Do Coventrys 12

Dined wth Capt Ralph Hilton 14

Dined wth Wm Coventry 15

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This morning took leave of my friends in N York 16. (viz) Wm Coventry Is: Latouch Jos. Haynes Nat. Marsten Ra Hilton Tho: Duncan, Ia Burling, Sam Burling John Fell &C & Ca Had a Bowl of Hot Arrack and went Imediately aboard the Snow Elizabeth Giles Heysham

On Board the Eliza Giles Heysham Masr for Antigua 1750—1 March 16th wth John Willett Esqr Chas Duncan And my Self Passengers Also Yorkshire & the Two Horses, Wind N W And a fine gale We turnd off our fast from the Wharfe at 10 o'Clock A.M. and at One o'Clock we Passed by Sandy hook

Fine day Wind N W Course S E .17

Do & fresh gale @ Do — Do 18.

Do & Do @ Do—Do 19.

Hard gale @ S: W— Do 20

72

21 Exceeding fine Weather wind N W— Do

22 Do — wind @ S W Do

23 Do Wind N W—Lat 31° 46#— Do

.24 Fresh Gale Wd Wterly wth Thunde &C Latd 29° 56# Antigua this day bears So B W 783#

1751., 25 Fresh Gale @ S W & N W Lat 27°,,26#

26 Wind Westerly and Near Noon begun to dye away Lat 26°,,26#. Near Calm the Afternoon and the followg night

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27. At 8 this Mornng the Breese came About to the N E. See a Sloop to the Eastwd the latter part of this day had a fine Trade at N E Lat: POb: 25°, 55#.

28 A fine Trade E N E. POb: 23°, 41#

29. Do — Do — POb 22° 1#

30 Do — — — 20°, 9#

.31 Do —and Pleasant gale POb: 18°, 10#

1751 Apl 1 Smart gail at E B S and ES E Lat: 16° 30# at noon begun to Steer W. B. S. & See Seve men War birds And See a vessel in the Mornng from the Masthead

2d Fine Weather Steerd W½N. Lat POb 16°, 42# in the Eveng Caught a booby on the try Sail gaff

3d Between 3 and 5 this mornng laid to, very Squally at ¾ past 10 o'Clock made the Island Antigua Dist: about 6 Leagues at one was off willoughby bay and at 6 got up wth Sandy Island Tacked and came too under Hawksbill all night where we laid very Safely—

73

Got under Sail at 6 o'Clock this mornng and turned into St John's Harbour got Ashore at 10 AM, In good health and Thanks be to God found all my friends well After a voyage of 8mos & 9 days from this Island

I travelled in this Journey upon the Continent of N. America about 1120 miles—

Boston N. B. in page [22] See an Accot of the Long Wharf there, to which I add that our fr'd Jabez Maud Fisher of Philadelphia when here vizt 24th of Octor 1775 told me that he had Measured the Long Wharfe at Boston & found it 700 yards long which is less than Reported by 180 yards

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Philadelphia See page [64] There was 2 Friends Meeting Houses & another Building on Society hill Said Fisher above told me there is now Four Meeting houses belonging to Friends wch Consist of 800 Families & which are Reckoned at 2700 Individuals

Ditto Also that the Tide of flood rises only 6 feet at that City being 128 miles from Cape Henlopen near Lewes Town Also

Ditto as the Streets are Intersected at right Angles makes Intermediate Squares — 450 feet or 150 yards Fronting each way

74

I had Recommendations to the following Gentlemen at Boston by sundry persons

Andrew Mackenzie—By Sam: Horner—

Benja Faneuil By Do

Capt Wm Morris By Do

Foster Hutchinson Did Business wth him

A Letter from Capt Edwd Cahill for John Erving

Do Do for Thos Hubard

Do Do James Forbes

Do one for Henry Oassals Esqr my true fr'd—

Do one for John Fenton

Do one for Thomas Goodthwaite

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